NELVANA

To: Development Staff
From: Front Desk
RE: New series idea

High Priority!

This unsolicited submission just came through the mail with "ERGENT" (sic) written on the envelope. It wasn't addressed to any specific person, just "Head of Studio," so I opened it. It's an idea for a kids' cartoon series about a group of singing hamsters who travel the world and are famous and get into all kinds of ridiculous situations. It's kind of a Monkees meet the Partridge Family piece. Very clever stuff. In my professional opinion, I think we should option this property and rush it into development.

Dave W.
Temp Receptionist

P.S. My notes are attached.

Hampsterdance

A totally zoomy idea for a TV series

by me,
Brandon Banff

CEO, Hampsterdance International Conglomerate Corporashun, Ink

Septembur 6, 2001

FROM THE DESK OF BRANDON BANFF

My name is Brandon Banff and I'm the CEO and Marketing Manager and Advertising Director and Head of Everything Else for Hampsterdance Worldwide Enterprises and Conglomerates and Mergers and ….Ackquizzishuns.

How would you like a new television show all about my Hampsters? They sing and dance and are really really talented. They rule! I think a tv show is a good idea because I put up a website for the Hampsters and it gets hits from all over the world. Kids love the Hampsters. The Hampsters even have a CD that sold, like a zillion copies. That's no lie! So Hampton – he's the oldest Hampster – he said, "Hey, Brandon, I wanna be on tv!" And I said, "No, you better not climb up there because Mom just dusted it." And Hampton said, "No, I don't wanna be on the television set, I want us to have our own television series." And I said, "Oh, now I get it. What an awesome idea." (Hampton is full of big ideas!!)

So, what do you think? Can we have our own tv show? Huh? Can we? Please!

Here's the pitch (that's Hollywood talk for *idea*): There are two fun-filled jam-packed and totally cool episodes each half hour and every episode has a really really funny story that's about my singing Hampsters (Hampton, Dixie, Fuzzy Neville and Hado) and the problems they get into. Hampton's big ideas always seem to get them into big trouble. Fuzzy Neville isn't afraid of doing anything, and that scares the rest of us! Hado is like a singing secret weapon and Dixie, well, she calls herself a southern belle, but we just call her a ding-a-ling.

The series is also about me and my family. (Oh, did I mention that I still live at home with my Mom and Dad and little sister, Blondee? Yeah, I know I'm a big manager of a corporashun but, like, I'm trying to save money for a new bike and stuff.) So in the tv show, I'm the Hampsters' manager (which is a lot like being an older brother) and my Mom writes some of the Hampsters' songs (for real!) and my Dad – he's an inventor, but I doubt if you've heard of any of his invenshuns – he invents things for the Hampsters and sometimes they even work! And my little

sister Blondee wants to be a singer someday, just like the Hampsters, but she needs more practice . A lot more!!

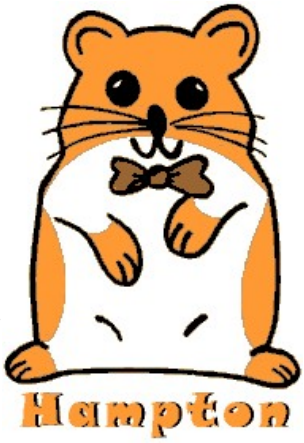
The Hampsters are very talented and very big stars. Okay, they're not mega, like, Destiny's Child or 98 Degrees but hey, give us a break. Last week they were the opening act at the Cucamonga NASCAR Races. The crowd loved them (and Fuzzy came in second place when he accidentally crawled into the driver's helmet and took a spin! Wow, was that wild!). So I suggest you sign us up for a tv series before Hollywood starts offering us movies with big stars like Drew Barrymore and Tom Green.

Okay, now for the nego…nago…negotiashuns. We want to do, like, 1000 episodes and, if you promise to give us that many, we promise to sing in every episode. Isn't that a good deal? And Dixie says she needs a limousine and a star trailer and I'd like a new bike and we all want lots of money and candy and stuff.

This is the end of my pitch because I have a geography test tomorrow that I have to go study for. Bummer.

Executively yours,
Brandon Banff
CEO (Chief Executive Owner)
Chief Money Officer
Marketing Manager
Advertising Director
Hampsterdance International Conglomerate Corporashun, Ink

HAMPTON'S PAGE



"Who can sing, who can dance, who put the groove in the Hampsterdance??" ME! That's because when Brandon first brought me home from the pet shop he would go to bed and leave the TV on in the basement and I stayed up all night watching The Backstreet Boys and N'Sync on MTV. That's how I learned to sing and dance . And then I got this idea – BAM! – Singing/Dancing Hampsters! What a concept! So the next day I told Brandon and do you know what he said? Well never mind what he said because he was totally amazed that I could even talk – DUH! - but I told him to round up my brothers and sisters who were in pet shops all over the world and put our show on the road. And he did. And now we're singing and dancing and we even have our own CD! Who knew? Me, that's who!

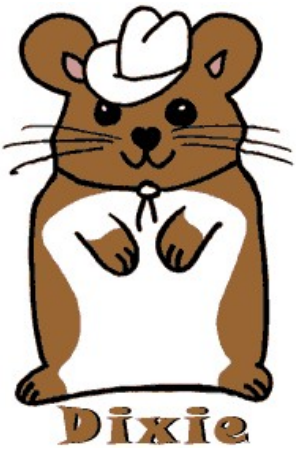
I'm older than my brother and sisters by 12 seconds, so that kind of makes me the leader (after Brandon, that is). I'm the "Idea Hampster!" I get these big, crazy, wonderful and positively inspired ideas and then Brandon makes them happen. Well, okay, sometimes my ideas don't work out quite like they should. Like that time the circus was in town – the Jerques du Soleil - and I told Brandon we should sing there. I always wanted to see a circus, but I didn't know the elephants would mistake me and my brother and sisters for mice and stampede! Dixie screamed, "We're gonna be elephant grits!" Hado did fancy karate stuff and tied up one elephant with his own trunk, and Fuzzy rode another like a bucking bronco back into its cage. That was almost a Big Top Catastrophe!

My next super boffo idea was for us Hampsters to have our own tv series. What do you think of it so far? Sweet, isn't it!

Thanks to all our fans for buying our CDs. And watch our website to see if we're coming to your town soon! Oh, yeah, and don't pay any attention to those rumors that we're changing our name to Dixie and The Hampsters. How did that rumor get started, anyway?

Yours 'til the next big idea comes along -
Hampton Hampster

Dixie's Page



Howdy dumplin's!

I hope ya'll can read this with a twang because that's how I tawk. I was raised in the deep south and I tawk Southern (see if you stretch that last word like I can!). Mah sistah Hado speaks all these fancy languages but she said she c'ain't understand a word I'm sayun. I said, "Hado, how come you can parsley-vous french and habla blah blah blah and still not understand little ol' me?" And do ya'll know what she said back? "Geizundheit!" Don't that beat all!

Hampton asked me to put an end to that rumor that I'm ponderin' goin' solo. Who starts these ornery rumors anyway? Okay, maybe I did mention to a fan or two...hundred...that we were thinking of changing the name of the group to *Dixie and the Hampsters*. But that doesn't mean I'm goin' solo. ...although that idea is a real kick in the britches, now that I think 'bout it.

All right, enough about me, let's talk about what interests you fans, which is...ME! You probably have a hankerin' to know a few of mah favorite things, so here they are:

Dixie's Favorite Song: *Dixie*, of course!
Dixie's Favorite Movie: *Driving Miss Dixie***
Dixie's Favorite Drink: Anything in a Dixie Cup!
Dixie's Favorite Book: *Tuesdays with Miss Dixie***
Dixie's Favorite Broadway Musical: *Dixie and the Beast***
** Still in the development stage

I hope ya'll will join the Dixie Hampster Fan Club and be sure and visit mah website www.ClickonDixie.com. I'd love to stay and chat with ya'll, but Hampton wants us to rehearse a snazzy new number. Fuzzy is supposed to sing the lead, but little Miss Dixie has another idea on that subject….

Hampster Hugs and Country-fried Kisses,
Dixie

Fuzzy Neville's Page

G'day, mates. Brandon asked me to tell ya a few things about myself. But first, let me finish this kiwi….slurp!…okay, now I'm ready.

I'm from down under. (That's Australian lingo for, well, Australia.) Down under was a rockin' place because I lived near the beach. I love to surf and play in the sand. I even have me own customized surf board. As much as I liked livin' down under, life is even better now that I'm livin' with me brother, sisters and the Banff family. We get to travel all around the world and I get to ride the waves in faraway places like Sri Lanka and Utah. Gets me in trouble sometimes. Almost missed a show once because I was surfin' a killer tube when I shoulda been getting ready! Brandon and Hampton were right angry with me about that, 'specially when I showed up late, soaking wet, wearing me boardies, and had to surf the crowd to get onto the stage in time for my solo in the song. Shew, that was a close matooda!

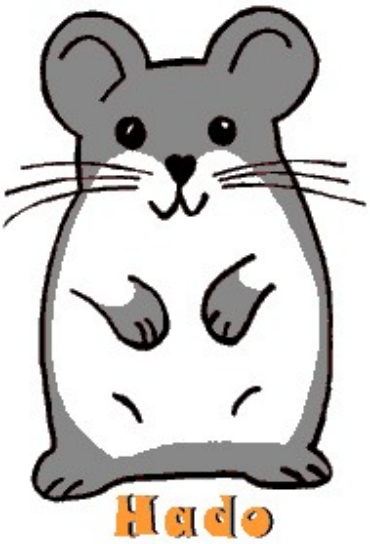
I like stuff that's *out there* like extreme sports and amusement parks and arcades and river raftin' and fun stuff like that. Sometimes I volunteer to test some of new things that Brandon's Dad invents, like that Sunflower-Powered-Potato-Peeler. I stoked 12 pounds of sunflower seeds into the fire to generate enough power to peel that potato – but, I'm telling you, that spud was spotless!

I like beach music, too. Ya know, that rockin' stuff from way back. I'm tryin' to convince Brandon and me brother and sisters to sing some songs like "California Hampsters" or "Little Surfer Squirrel." Whatcha think, mates?

I really love the attention all you sheilas give me. (Oh, sheilas means girls in Aussie lingo), even if it makes Hampton a wee bit jealous. I guess surfin' and swimmin' and stuff keeps me in good shape. I told Hampton, "I can't help it if I have a cuter outback than you."

That's all for t'day, mates. Time to catch a wave.
Hampsterbunga!
- Fuzzy Neville

Hado's Page



Greetings Fans and Sushi Lovers Everywhere,

My name is Hado Hampster. My brother Hampton asked me to tell you about myself. I am Crouching Tiger/Singing Hamster.

.....HIIIIIIIIII YAAAAAAA!!!!! Oops, sorry. Almost karate chopped my brother, Hampton. Brother Hampton, please do not sneak up on me. I am very sensitive. Will chop, slice and dice anyone who surprises me. You see, legend has it that when I was in pet shop in Japan, my cage was next to snake cage. Sometimes doors get left open. Sometimes snake not so honorable. Sometimes Hado have to kick, twirl, punch, jump and karate my way to safety. That is how I earn my nickname Crouching Tiger/Singing Hamster.

My sister Dixie is fun. She talks funny, too. I ask, "Why do you talk that way, sister?" Dixie says, "Cuz I hail from the south, dumplin'." I say, "Me, too! Osaka is in south Japan." Small world, yes?

I practice yoga. Keeps me from going crazy. And, believe me, crazy is our way of life - like the day I helped Blondee with her recital. Blondee nice girl, but bad at piano - so inside piano I dance on keys to make song good. But Blondee forget and close piano lid. Help!!! I am locked inside! People outside say, "Listen, piano is magic!" Inside, I say .....HIIII YAAAAA!!!!! Ut oh, magic piano now...broken piano. Sorry.

In my spare time, I like to learn new languages. So far I speak Japanese, English, French, Spanish, German and Hamsterese. So sayornara, goodbye, au revoir, hasta la vista, auf weidersein and squeak squeak squeak.

Teriyakingly yours,
Hado

FROM BRENDA BANFF

"Life is like a Salad Bar – lettuce be all we can be!"

Hello Hampster Lovers,

Brandon asked me to say a few words about his TV show idea for his singing hampsters. I think it's a wonderful idea, and the hampsters are so talented. Like I told Brandon and the hampsters whenever we're on the road going to sing somewhere, "We're taking the carpool lane to success!"

Brandon is becoming quite the ambitious businessman. I've always told him, "The only thing that can hold you back in life is YOU." He really believes in himself and his ideas, and look how it's turned out: the Hampsters have a gold record! We have so much fun traveling around the world singing for kids everywhere. Of course, going everywhere with two ambitious kids and four singing hampsters sometimes sure can test my positive way of thinking. Like the time Dixie snuck into the cargo section of that airplane to New York for the open auditions at Radio City Music Hall and we had to go after her. Dixie nearly got squashed on the stage by all those high-kicking heels until we explained why she was there. But, in the end, she and the hampsters got hired for a special performance with the Rockettes and sang, *It's The Big Apple Or No Apple At All!*

It's only a matter of time before my husband and daughter are just as successful as the hampsters. Bob comes up with the most amazing inventions; I call him my "Daydream Believer." And Blondee, well, when I told her to "be all that Blondee can be" I had no idea she'd want to be so many things! -- a singer, dancer, movie star, talk-show hostess, and have a breakfast cereal named after her called *Blondee's Chocolate Peanut Butter Cookie Dough Puffs*. Personally, I'd be happy if she focused on one thing and got it right, but I don't want to discourage her.

I've had a bit of a positive effect on the hampsters' success, too. It's true, I've written some of the hampsters' biggest hits. I composed songs when I was a kid and a member of Up With People. But those hampsters can sing just about anything. Just yesterday they recorded a song they thought I wrote for them, but it was really just a recipe I had written down for my new Jello mold (*You put the lime in the coconut, stir it up…*).

Life is so exciting right now! All my years of sending out positive energy are coming back at me like a swarm of boomerangs of good things!

Brandon's Mom

Don't waste the toothpaste if you're not going to smile!

(I have to let my stupid little sister be in the show because she hid my Gameboy and won't tell me where unless I do. She can really be a pain. -- Brandon)

Blondee's Page

Hello everyone! My name is Blondee - what's yours?? I'm 6 years old and my big brother Brandon asked me to tell you all about myself so here's. . .

All About Blondee (with a little help from my Mom)

First of all, the way you say my name is Blon-dee. Isn't that sweet? I looove my name. I thought it up - all by myself! I bet Britney Spears wished she had thought of it, but I was first. Too bad.

I love to sing. Oh, yeah, and dance. And LOTS of other things. I take baton twirling lessons and ballet and tap dance classes and in my free time I enter beauty contests. . . oh, yeah, and I also go to school. I'm in the First Grade this year - but in the Advanced Class!

When I learn how to write better this year I want to write my life story - because there's soooo much to tell. I've been calling book companies to see which one wants to sell my bookography. Because someday I'm going to be a BIG star. Much bigger than these hampsters. A megastar! I'll make movies and have my own TV shows and appear in big theaters like the Whistler Pot Pie Playhouse (they serve dinner during the shows).

(No, Brandon, I am NOT finished talking about me yet!!!!! Buzz off!)

I keep telling my brother and mother that they should work to make me a star instead of the hampsters. I can sing, too! I take singing lessons! (Oh, and some others I forgot to tell you about: acrobatics, cooking, swimming, and tumbling.) I practice all the time. I sing in my bedroom, in the bathtub, in my pajamas, in the morning, in the evening, and in my sleep.

Gotta go. Time to hop over to my "Hip Hop" lessons. My teacher, Miss Iced Coffee, will be mad if I'm late.

Love,

Blondee (save this autograph, it will be worth a lot of allowances someday!)

A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR...

Allow me to introduce myself, I'm Bob Banff, Chief Executive Owner, General Manager, and Senior Design Consultant of *Bob's Eco Emporium*. Located in downtown Whistler, next to *Scotty's Hardware and Coffee Shop*, *Bob's Eco Emporium* has every kind of environmentally-friendly invention you can think of – oh, okay, that I can think of. I design them myself, and they are all tested (sometimes by my volunteer, Fuzzy Neville) and guaranteed. Come in today and browse our new selections, including:

- *The Sucker-cycle*. My new peddle-powered vacuum cleaner – sucks the dirt out of your carpets and firms your thighs at the same time! (currently in talks with Suzanne Sommers to do the infomercial).
- *The Breeze-n-art*. My windmill-powered blender -- the perfect way to make tasty milkshakes or fruit smoothies, if the wind conditions are just right.
- *The Cat-atonic Talker*. Harness the power of static electricity with my new cat-powered mobile phone! Just strap the mobile phone base onto your cat's back and watch the sparks fly when your cat rubs against furniture. There is also an answering machine model, but it requires the power of two cats.
- *The FUV* – or Flushing Utility Vehicle. Test-drive my minivan of the future that runs on 100% methane from raw sewage. No need to fill up this baby at the gas station with those nasty fossil fuels, just hook it up to your sewer lines and overnight you'll have a full tank! For better gas mileage, eat Mexican food the night before!

Speaking of the future, one day my son Brandon will inherit my environmentally friendly empire. He's showing some good business sense with his hampster venture. I've always tried to set a good example for him. I'm sure when this hampster fad has faded he'll realize his future's in inventions, too. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree, you know! (Hold it, that gives me an idea!...a gravity-powered Applesauce Maker! This could be bigger than Apple Computers!!)

Bob Banff
CEO
General Manager
Senior Design Consultant
Bob's Eco Emporium

MY NOTES ON "Hampsterdance"

By Dave W, Temp Receptionist

I think this Brandon kid is really on to something special with this series idea. Very high concept. The target audience should be 6-11. This will allow for great merchandising potential and perfect synergy between the record sales and the TV series, as well as a future movie franchise.

I only have a few notes before we proceed to pilot script.

I think we should really push the envelope with these characters. Brandon should be a wheeler-dealer, a 12-year-old version of Donald Trump. Although Brandon sees himself as the head of a musical enterprise, a CEO, he still has kid-like interruptions such as homework, school, and cleaning his room. But through it all, he's always scheming for the next big way to market his singing hampsters. He needs to be a role model, however, for our audience, so his interaction with the hampsters should be that of older brother/friend/road manager.

No matter where our hampsters appear, audiences love them. And even though the four hampsters are becoming famous - they're flawed! HAMPTON, for example, is full of big ideas and he means well but bites off more than he can chew and gets into trouble. He needs to be very pro-active so that he's the driving force of the group. DIXIE is a country-fried Southern hampster - think young Dolly Parton meets Miss Piggy – very ego-centric, thinks she's the star, thinks batting her long lashes will get her out of a bad situation - and she isn't batting 1000! HADO is smart, our Zen master, conscientious, and sensitive; she always sees the right thing to do, but her fear of taking risks oftens holds the hampsters back. When she does let loose and, consequently, finds herself in a jam, her sweet exterior implodes and underneath there's a crouching tiger ready to pounce! FUZZY NEVILLE is the hunk who lives to have fun - and silly little details like schedules, rehearsals and singing engagements don't mean a thing to him. He's a surfer who suffers from A.D.D. - Attention Deficit Disorder. Forget this wave, he'll catch the next one.

Brandon's dad, Bob Banff, should be totally obsessed with his environmentally-friendly inventions and saving the Earth from fossil fuels. His obsession should make for some great quirky visuals, such as the Banff house - it

could be built out of stacks of old recycled car tires, making it look like the Michelin Man lives there. There should be solar panels perched everywhere, and the kitchen is totally windmill powered, all the appliances like blenders, mixers, juicers, and food processors are attached to a bizarre network of cables. Bob's mission in life is to save the Earth, but people should think he's from another planet!

Brenda Banff is totally into new age thoughts and positive affirmations, but just underneath her sunny surface should be some dark clouds of suppressed negativity. Those positive affirmations become positively sharp if she's pushed too far.

And Blondee (she should insist on pronouncing it "Blon-DEE," and never let us forget it), is a girl with stars in her eyes. She wants stardom so badly, but the spotlight has fallen on the hampsters and not on her. So close - and yet so far. This kid thinks she's talented at everything, but the truth is, she's a 6 year old with a looong way to go. Occasionally she actually gets to sing - but only with the hampsters! This way we can use her for new musical combinations or duets with the hampsters, which will really irritate her brother, Brandon, who probably doesn't want her around (like most boys his age).

The storylines should focus on one or more of the hampsters and the problems he or she gets into, like Hampton's wild ideas, Dixie's "me first" situations and Fuzzy's insatiable appetite for fun and adventure. Brandon should get in over his head, too, with his big business deals and schemes. Showing Hampton, Hado, Fuzzy, Dixie and Brandon solve their problems will be very pro-social educationally and show our young audience how to approach difficulties in life – and how much easier it is when approached with a sense of humor.

Oh, and EVERY episode must have a song! Sometimes a new video at the end of the episode, courtesy of HTV (Hampster Television). Sometimes the songs are an integral part of the story, as a bridge between story points. And sometimes we just watch the four hampsters rehearsing.

Okay, those are all my notes so far. I'll type up the rest after I answer the fifteen calls I have on hold. Who is this Toper person and why is everybody calling him?

Dave W
Temp Receptionist

PS – I'm available for any Executive Producer positions should the series get a green light (that's Hollywood talk for a "sale").